



Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling

President's Address Stephanie Dailey



President

Stephanie F. Dailey
stdailey@argosy.edu

Past-President

Elizabeth O'Brien
elizabeth-o'brien@utc.edu

President-Elect

Claudia Sadler-Gerhardt
cgerhard@ashland.edu

Treasurer

Amanda Giordino
amanda.giordino@unt.edu

Secretary

Isabel Thompson
ithompson@nova.edu



Editorial Team

Editor: LaKeitha Poole
Assistant Editor: Heidi Henry

Hello my fellow ASERVIC members! Thank you for reading this Summer issue of Interaction. If you are new to ASERVIC, I wholeheartedly welcome you to our organization. I hope this edition of our newsletter gives you an idea of all the remarkable things ASERVIC members do to honor the integration of spiritual and religious issues into the counseling process. If you have been with ASERVIC for a while, I thank you sincerely for your dedication to our mission; there is no way we could be one of the largest divisions of the American Counseling Association (ACA) without your support and guidance. We all make up ASERVIC, and because of this, we are all connected. Even the simple task of reading this newsletter keeps ASERVIC alive and vibrant. I thank you for that.

As we move into the Fall we are naturally called into transition. Regardless of our geographical location or work setting, Fall marks a time where we say goodbye to one space and hello to another. Many of us are asked to hit "reset" as our summer draws to a close. The start of school or new work routines, cooler temperatures, and shorter days signify this change. For many, Fall also denotes an increased level of "busy" as we get settled into the new season. Despite the intensity of such change, it is important to recognize our natural need to create harmony and balance; to take stock of our blessings and gratitude for the ability we have in us to move forward. Honoring this space, I would like to reflect on what ASERVIC has done in the last year and a few things to come in the next few months.

Looking back at our last fiscal year (June 2016 - 2017), ASERVIC accomplished a great deal under the direction of past-president Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien. We welcomed Dr. Craig S. Cashwell as the incoming editor of our journal, Counseling and Values. ASERVIC cross-endorsed our spiritual competencies with competencies from two other divisions: the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD) and the Association for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues in Counseling (ALGBTIC). We launched the ASERVIC / ALGBTIC task force and have hosted numerous webinars with other divisions and organizations to promote more educational opportunities for our members. We started our first Emerging Leaders program and stood up the ASERVIC Advisory Board, made up of past ASERVIC Leadership, to celebrate our strong lineage and appreciation for those who have built ASERVIC into what it is today.

Looking forward, we are planning our 2017 ASERVIC National Conference to be held in Richmond, VA in July 2017. We welcome 2016-2017 ASERVIC Emerging Leaders Dr. Sonja Sutherland, Lisa Bijan, and Katelyn Mayo. We will launch numerous webinars to bolster virtual educational opportunities for ASERVIC members. A snapshot of these includes an interview with Dr. Everett Worthington, our 2017 conference keynote speaker, and an interview with the new editor of Counseling and Values, Dr. Craig S. Cashwell. Fall also marks the release of a free eBook for ASERVIC members, Connecting Soul, Spirit, Mind, and Body: A Collection of Spiritual and Religious Perspectives and Practices in Counseling. Members will find this on our website in the next few weeks. We are also working diligently with state divisions to support activation (or reactivation) of state ASERVIC divisions. Many of you have hopefully seen the new state division grant available. Throughout the year we will continue to revamp our website to offer more services and benefits for our members, particularly in the form of webinars and continuing education opportunities. Fall also marks the end of our ASERVIC listserv and our formal transition to using the ASERVIC Community on ACA Connect as our primary mode of communication. See our website for information on these initiatives and stay up to date by frequently visiting our website.

As we move forward, members will continue to receive updates on ASERVIC initiatives. I want to offer everyone the opportunity to reach out and let us know what you would like to see ASERVIC do in the upcoming year. While we are greatly indebted to our board and past leadership, it is really you - our members - who have made us one of the greatest divisions within ACA. In closing, I hope this season of change is harmonious for everyone, and I pray for peace within and among you and your loved ones.

With hope and gratitude,
Stephanie F. Dailey
ASERVIC President, 2016-2017

SPIRITUALITY IN THE FIELD

Shanita S. Brown, PhD, ACS, LPCA, NCC



As a counselor educator and counselor, my spiritual and religious values are a significant part of my professional identity. I find that they have

help shaped who I am, and my work with clients. I am currently an adjunct professor of counselor education at Apex School of Theology within the Masters of Arts in Christian Counseling program. As a clinician, I work with adolescents, adults and families with a variety of mental health concerns, more specifically experiences with intimate partner violence (domestic violence). The majority of my clients have been African American adolescents and women.

It is well documented that African American women are taught to keep personal experiences such as domestic violence silent and instead turn to prayer and faith. While serving a diverse population, I found that the central themes in clinical sessions were spiritual and religious values.

I learned that clients' worldviews had a strong connection to faith and hope; consequently, this helped them endure a cycle of abuse and ultimately leave the relationship. This was profound and resonated with me on many levels. My personal experiences have taught me to have faith, hope and trust in God, and the belief that he will always provide for his children.

As a result of my clinical experience, for my dissertation I examined the domestic violence experiences of African American women and the perceived role of spirituality. The findings of the research revealed how spirituality shaped their decisions to stay in volatile relationships, and shed light on the phenomenon of how spirituality serves, paradoxically, as both a protective factor and a barrier in their process of leaving. Such enlightening results lead to creation of an educational workshop titled: *Engaging the Faith Community's Response to Domestic Violence: Courageous Conversation*. I added "Courageous Conversations" to the title, because discussion about domestic violence in the faith community, specifically the African American community is tabooed. First, it takes courage for the faith community to discuss domestic violence, and secondly, to learn the notion that one's spiritual and religious beliefs are a hindrance for them is disheartening.

Reflecting on my clinical and research experiences, I will share the importance of the second competency:

2. The professional counselor recognizes that the client's beliefs (or absence of beliefs) about spirituality and/or religion are central to his or her worldview and can influence psychosocial functioning.

My experiences in conducting the workshops have been very good. Participants in the workshops have varied from survivors, advocates, pastors, ministers, chaplains to counselors. I stressed the importance of recognizing the role of spiritual and religious values for survivors. I provide clinical examples of how one's spiritual and religious values have caused confusion and hatred towards God, self-blame and mistrust in faith leaders. For instance, faith leaders commonly utilized scriptures when survivors seek their guidance for domestic violence. However, they failed to realize such scriptures such as "God hates Divorce" dampens a survivor's faith and belief in God. I remind participants that survivors experience a myriad of emotions and utilize faith and prayer to balance their psychological well-being. I encourage clinicians to assess their worldviews to avoid harm to clients and to ask survivors questions about their spiritual and religious values during clinical assessments. Last, I provide research findings to demonstrate survivors face multiple barriers, i.e., racism, discrimination, poverty, housing and transportation.

As a result of the workshops, survivors have shared they no longer feel ashamed and guilty about the abuse, but have been set free and can begin healing. Pastors have inquired about developing domestic violence support groups and clinicians have expressed they better understand how a survivor's spiritual and religious values influence the process of leaving the volatile relationship. I feel that my primary research focus of examining emerging contexts of intimate partner violence and the role of spirituality is a gift and ministry from God. My faith and trust afford me hope that as a result of this workshop, people will be healed and free of oppressive relationships, and that faith leaders will realize their role in perpetuating abuse and instead, become more of a source of empowerment for survivors.

NEW MEMBER **SPOTLIGHT**

CARALYN OAKLEY



What is your spiritual story?

I was raised strictly Roman Catholic and taught from a young age the importance of belief being a part of a person's identity. As I got older, I began to study other religions and spiritual traditions to learn more about the mystical side of spirituality, since that was what I felt drawn to personally. Throughout my exploration of the world's religions I began to see common threads that united them all, as well as distinct differences that brought varieties of experience and perspective that made them unique to the individuals who practiced them. I now work as an Intuitive Spiritual Adviser and Reiki Master Teacher and Healer, while also working toward my Master's degree in Clinical Counseling.

What drew you to membership in ASERVIC?

I first heard about ASERVIC in my ethics class at Bellevue University. I was immediately intrigued by an organization whose focus was on promoting not just a cultural perspective but a spiritual, ethical, and religious perspective in the professional counseling relationship. Throughout my various studies I have come to embrace a holistic approach to well-being, one that I plan to continue as I work toward professional licensure and practice. Membership in ASERVIC provides professional support for this approach.

How do you see yourself working alongside ASERVIC?

I am seeking to increase my professional network of those who promote the acceptance and use of spiritual, ethical, and religious values in professional counseling. I hope to contribute my own work and analysis of the use of Reiki techniques in healing emotional and mental disturbance, and I hope to participate in and contribute to studies of spiritual, ethical, and religious approaches in mental health treatment. But my first step, since I am still a student, is to learn as much as I can and contribute where I can, which is why I am applying for the ASERVIC Emerging Leaders program.

CALL FOR PROGRAM PROPOSALS

2017 ASSOCIATION FOR SPIRITUAL, ETHICAL, AND RELIGIOUS VALUES IN COUNSELING CONFERENCE

Location:	Omni Hotel in downtown Richmond, Virginia
Keynote Speaker:	Everett J. Worthington, Ph.D.
Dates:	July 8-10, 2017

The call for proposals for programs for the ASERVIC Conference in Richmond Virginia is now open! Please consider submitting your proposal focusing on issues of *Spirituality, Religion, Ethics, and Values in Counseling*.

The deadline for proposal submission is
September 1, 2016 at 11:59 pm.

To review proposal submission form and to submit a proposal, visit www.aservic2017.net and click on the “Proposal Submission” tab.

Additional information about the conference, keynote speaker, and hotel reservations is available on the conference website (www.aservic2017.net).

If you have questions about the conference or submission process, please email aservic2017@gmail.com.

REMINDER



JOIN US ON ASERVIC CONNECT

As a reminder, this current listserv will be closing in October 2016. The new communication platform is ASERVIC Connect. We encourage you to make sure you have access to ASERVIC Connect.

If you are a current member of ASERVIC or a current state division member of ASERVIC you should have access to ASERVIC Connect through ACA Connect. To find ASERVIC Connect and make sure you have access, go at ACA's website to locate ACA Connect and the ASERVIC Community:

- 1) <http://community.counseling.org/home>
- 2) Select Communities
- 3) Select My Communities (you may be promoted to login to ACA)
- 4) Find the ASERVIC Community

If you cannot find ASERVIC under your communities, be sure that you are a current member.

Questions can be directed to:

Isabel Thompson
ASERVIC Secretary 2016-2017

Submission Request

Spirituality in the Field

Do you have ideas or a story to share regarding your practice of spirituality in the field? If so, please submit to the next edition of Interaction.

The Innovation Committee would like to formally invite current ASERVIC members to consider sharing their “Spirituality in the Field” experiences for publication in an upcoming ASERVIC newsletter.

Inquiries and submissions for this special section of the newsletter can be sent to LYNN BOHECKER (lbohecker@nnu.edu)

- ◇ Follow the ASERVIC newsletter “guidelines for submission” as published in the most recent newsletter publication (See ASERVIC webpage www.aservic.org)
- ◇ Articles include an opening paragraph introducing the author to the readers.
- ◇ Articles include a second paragraph describing how the author incorporates one or multiple Spiritual Competencies in practice.
- ◇ Articles include a concluding paragraph or list of resources (books, trainings, websites/blogs, inspirational quote, etc.) related to the practices and competencies addressed in the article.
- ◇ A professional picture of the author is attached (in .jpeg format) with the article.



Interested in submitting an article for the FALL issue of the *Interaction*?

The deadline is FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21st.

Please refer to ASERVIC.org for guidelines for publication or contact the editor at lakeithapoole@gmail.com for more information.